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ORGANIZATION

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE

JOHN F. SLATER FUND

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF FREEDMEN

1882



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BALTIMORE  
JOHN MURPHY & CO

1882

## TRUSTEES.

Hon. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, LL. D.

*President.*

Chief Justice MORRISON R. WAITE, LL. D.

*Vice-President.*

DANIEL C. GILMAN, LL. D.

*Secretary.*

MORRIS K. JESUP, Esq.

*Treasurer.*

JOHN A. STEWART, Esq.

Hon. WILLIAM E. DODGE.

Hon. ALFRED H. COLQUITT.

Rev. JAMES P. BOYCE, D. D.

Rev. PHILLIPS BROOKS, D. D.\*

WILLIAM A. SLATER, Esq.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES:

*Executive:*

Hon. R. B. HAYES, Chairman.

HON. A. H. COLQUITT.

HON. W. E. DODGE.

REV. J. P. BOYCE.

PRES. D. C. GILMAN.

*Finance:*

JOHN A. STEWART.

WILLIAM E. DODGE.

MORRIS K. JESUP.

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## GENERAL AGENT:

Rev. A. G. HAYGOOD, D. D., Oxford, Georgia,

To whom letters may be addressed.

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\*One of the original incorporators who has asked to be excused from serving because of his prolonged absence from this country.

# LETTER

OF

## THE FOUNDER.

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TO MESSRS. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, of Ohio; MORRISON R. WAITE, of the District of Columbia; WILLIAM E. DODGE, of New York; PHILLIPS BROOKS, of Massachusetts; DANIEL C. GILMAN, of Maryland; JOHN A. STEWART, of New York; ALFRED H. COLQUITT, of Georgia; MORRIS K. JESUP, of New York; JAMES P. BOYCE, of Kentucky; and WILLIAM A. SLATER, of Connecticut:

GENTLEMEN: It has pleased God to grant me prosperity in my business, and to put it into my power to apply to charitable uses a sum of money so considerable as to require the counsel of wise men for the administration of it.

It is my desire at this time to appropriate to such uses the sum of one million of dollars (\$1,000,000.00); and I hereby invite you to procure a charter of incorporation under which a

charitable fund may be held exempt from taxation, and under which you shall organize; and I intend that the corporation, as soon as formed, shall receive this sum in trust to apply the income of it according to the instructions contained in this letter.

The general object which I desire to have exclusively pursued, is the uplifting of the lately emancipated population of the Southern States, and their posterity, by conferring on them the blessings of Christian education. The disabilities formerly suffered by these people, and their singular patience and fidelity in the great crisis of the nation, establish a just claim on the sympathy and good will of humane and patriotic men. I cannot but feel the compassion that is due in view of their prevailing ignorance which exists by no fault of their own.

But it is not only for their own sake, but also for the safety of our common country, in which they have been invested with equal political rights, that I am desirous to aid in providing them with the means of such education as shall tend to make them good men and good citizens—education in which the instruction of the mind in the common branches of secular learning shall be associated with training in just notions of duty toward God and man, in the light of the Holy Scriptures.



The means to be used in the prosecution of the general object above described, I leave to the discretion of the corporation; only indicating, as lines of operation adapted to the present condition of things, the training of teachers from among the people requiring to be taught, if, in the opinion of the corporation, by such limited selection the purposes of the trust can be best accomplished; and the encouragement of such institutions as are most effectually useful in promoting this training of teachers.

I am well aware that the work herein proposed is nothing new or untried. And it is no small part of my satisfaction in taking this share in it, that I hereby associate myself with some of the noblest enterprises of charity and humanity, and may hope to encourage the prayers and toils of faithful men and women who have labored and are still laboring in this cause.

I wish the corporation which you are invited to constitute, to consist at no time of more than twelve members, nor of less than nine members for a longer time than may be required for the convenient filling of vacancies, which I desire to be filled by the corporation, and when found practicable, at its next meeting after the vacancy may occur.

I designate as the first President of the corporation the Honorable RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

of Ohio. I desire that it may have power to provide from the income of the fund, among other things, for expenses incurred by members in the fulfillment of this trust, and for the expenses of such officers and agents as it may appoint, and generally to do all such acts as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this trust. I desire, if it may be, that the corporation may have full liberty to invest its funds according to its own best discretion, without reference to or restriction by, any laws or rules, legal or equitable, of any nature, regulating the mode of investment of trust funds; - only I wish that neither principal nor income be expended in land or buildings, for any other purpose than that of safe and productive investment for income. And I hereby discharge the corporation, and its individual members, so far as it is in my power so to do, of all responsibility, except for the faithful administration of this trust, according to their own honest understanding and best judgment. In particular, also, I wish to relieve them of any pretended claim on the part of any person, party, sect, institution or locality, to benefactions from this fund, that may be put forward on any ground whatever; as I wish every expenditure to be determined solely by the convictions of the corporation itself as to the most useful disposition of its gifts.

4 I desire that the doings of the corporation each year be printed and sent to each of the State Libraries in the United States, and to the Library of Congress.

In case the capital of the Fund should become impaired, I desire that a part of the income, not greater than one-half, be invested, from year to year, until the capital be restored to its original amount.

I purposely leave to the corporation the largest liberty of making such changes in the methods of applying the income of the Fund as shall seem from time to time best adapted to accomplish the general object herein defined. But being warned by the history of such endowments that they sometimes tend to discourage rather than promote effort and self-reliance on the part of beneficiaries; or to inure to the advancement of learning instead of the dissemination of it; or to become a convenience to the rich instead of a help to those who need help; I solemnly charge my Trustees to use their best wisdom in preventing any such defeat of the spirit of this trust; so that my gift may continue to future generations to be a blessing to the poor.

If at any time after the lapse of thirty-three years from the date of this foundation it shall appear to the judgment of three-fourths of the members of this corporation that, by reason of a

change in social conditions, or by reason of adequate and equitable public provision for education, or by any other sufficient reason, there is no further serious need of this Fund in the form in which it is at first instituted, I authorize the corporation to apply the capital of the Fund to the establishment of foundations subsidiary to then already existing institutions of higher education, in such wise as to make the educational advantages of such institutions more freely accessible to poor students of the colored race.

It is my wish that this trust be administered in no partisan, sectional, or sectarian spirit, but in the interest of a generous patriotism and an enlightened Christian faith; and that the corporation about to be formed, may continue to be constituted of men distinguished either by honorable success in business, or by services to literature, education, religion or the state.

I am encouraged to the execution in this charitable foundation of a long cherished purpose, by the eminent wisdom and success that has marked the conduct of the Peabody Education Fund in a field of operation not remote from that contemplated by this trust. I shall commit it to your hands, deeply conscious how insufficient is our best forecast to provide for the future that is known only to God; but humbly hoping that the administration of it may be so guided by

divine wisdom, as to be, in its turn, an encouragement to philanthropic enterprise on the part of others, and an enduring means of good to our beloved country and to our fellow-men.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,  
your friend and fellow-citizen,

JOHN F. SLATER.

NORWICH, CONN., March 4, 1882

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CHARTER  
FROM THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK.

Approved April 28th, 1882.

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*AN ACT to Incorporate the Trustees of the  
John F. Slater Fund.*

Whereas, Messrs. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, of Ohio, MORRISON R. WAITE, of the District of Columbia, WILLIAM E. DODGE, of New York, PHILLIPS BROOKS, of Massachusetts, DANIEL C. GILMAN, of Maryland, JOHN A. STEWART, of New York, ALFRED H. COLQUITT, of Georgia, MORRIS K. JESUP, of New York, JAMES P. BOYCE, of Kentucky, and WILLIAM A. SLATER, of Connecticut, have, by their memorial, represented to the Senate and Assembly of this State that a letter has been received by them from JOHN F. SLATER, of Norwich, in the State of Connecticut, of which the following is a copy :

[Here the letter printed on the preceding pages of this pamphlet is inserted.]

*And whereas*, said memorialists have further represented that they are ready to accept said trust and receive and administer said fund, provided a charter of incorporation is granted by this State, as indicated in said letter ;

*Now, therefore, for the purpose of giving full effect to the charitable intentions declared in said letter ;*

*The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :*

SEC. 1. Rutherford B. Hayes, Morrison R. Waite, William E. Dodge, Phillips Brooks, Daniel C. Gilman, John A. Stewart, Alfred H. Colquitt, Morris K. Jesup, James P. Boyce, and William A. Slater, are hereby created a body politic and corporate by the name of THE TRUSTEES OF THE JOHN F. SLATER FUND, and by that name shall have perpetual succession ; said original corporators electing their associates and successors, from time to time, so that the whole number of corporators may be kept at not less than nine nor more than twelve.

Said corporation may hold and manage, invest and reinvest all property which may be given or transferred to it for the charitable purposes indicated in said letter, and shall, in so doing, and in appropriating the income accruing therefrom, conform to and be governed by the directions in said letter contained ; and such property and all investments and reinvestments thereof, excepting real estate, shall, while owned by said corporation and held for the purposes of said trust be exempt from taxation of any and every nature.

SEC. 2. Rutherford B. Hayes, of Ohio, shall be the first President of the corporation, and it may elect such other officers and hold such meetings, whether within or without this State, from time to time, as its by-laws may authorize or prescribe.

SEC. 3. Said corporation shall annually file with the Librarian of this State a printed report of its doings during the preceding year.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect immediately.



# BY-LAWS.

Adopted May 18, 1882.

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1. The officers of the Board shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, chosen from the members, and a General Agent. These officers shall serve until death, resignation, or removal for cause, and vacancies when they occur shall be filled by ballot.

2. There shall be appointed at each annual meeting a Finance Committee and an Executive Committee. The Finance Committee shall consist of three, and the Executive Committee of five, the President of the Board being ex-officio one of the five.

3. The annual meeting of the Board shall be held at such place in the City of New York as shall be designated by the Board, or the President, on the first Thursday following the first Wednesday of October in each year. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee at such times and places as in their judgment may be necessary.

4. A majority of the members of the Board shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

5. In case of the absence or disability of the President, the Vice-President shall perform his duties.

6. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board which shall be annually published for general distribution.

7. The Executive Committee, in connexion with the General Agent, shall be charged with the duty of carrying out the resolutions and orders of the Board as the same are from time to time adopted. Three shall constitute a quorum for business.

8. The Finance Committee, in connexion with the Treasurer, shall have charge of the moneys and securities belonging to the fund with authority to invest and re-invest the moneys and dispose of the securities at their discretion, subject, however, at all times to the instructions of the Board. All securities belonging to the trust shall stand in the name of "THE TRUSTEES OF THE JOHN F. SLATER FUND," and be transferred only by the Treasurer when authorized by a resolution of the Finance Committee.

9. The General Agent, in connexion with the Executive Committee, shall be charged with the duty of carrying out the designs of the trust under the instructions which may from time to time be given by the Board.

10. The Secretary of the Board shall be, ex-officio, Secretary of the Executive Committee.

11. In case of the absence or disability of the Treasurer, the Finance Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy temporarily, and in like manner the Executive Committee may fill the place of General Agent if necessary.

12. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled by ballot, and a vote of two-thirds of all the members shall be necessary for an election.

13. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any annual or special meeting by the vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Board.

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE  
JOHN F. SLATER FUND.

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FIRST MEETING.

The first meeting of the Trustees of the JOHN F. SLATER Fund was held May 18, 1882, in the city of New York, at 52 William street, the office of MORRIS K. JESUP, Esq., a member of the Board.

All the members were present except Messrs. BROOKS and DODGE, who were far away from home. Hon. R. B. HAYES, designated by the donor as the President of the Board, occupied the chair. The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. BOYCE. Mr. JOHN F. SLATER was present, by invitation, during a part of the session.

A certified copy of the Charter from the General Assembly of the State of New York, was presented and read and the trust was accepted. After a preliminary organization, and a temporary adjournment, a committee appointed to con-

fer with Mr. SLATER, reported that he had paid to the Trustees the sum of one million dollars, of which the sum of \$520,750 was invested in railroad bonds, and the remainder was in money. A receipt for this sum was given in the name of the Trustees, and a committee was appointed to draft a letter to Mr. SLATER, expressing an appreciation of his liberality and wisdom.

Subsequently the following letter was engrossed on parchment, signed by the members of the Board and presented to the founder of the trust.

TO JOHN F. SLATER, ESQ., Norwich, Conn.

NEW YORK, *May* 18, 1882.

The members of the Board of Trustees whom you invited to take charge of the Fund which you have devoted to the education of the lately emancipated people of the Southern States and their posterity, desire at the beginning of their work to place on record their appreciation of your purpose, and to congratulate you on having completed this wise and generous gift at a period of your life when you may hope to observe for many years its beneficent influence.

They wish especially to assure you of their gratification in being called upon to administer a work so noble and timely. If this trust is successfully managed, it may, like the gift of George Peabody, lead to many other benefactions. As it tends to remove the ignorance of large numbers of those who have a vote in public affairs it will promote the welfare of every part of our country, and your generous action will receive, as it deserves, the thanks of good men and women in this and other lands.

Your Trustees unite in wishing you long life and health, that you may have the satisfaction of seeing the result of your patriotic forecast.

A special committee reported a series of by-laws which were considered and adopted. These by-laws are printed on a previous page.

Under these regulations the organization was completed as follows:

*President*, Hon. R. B. Hayes.

*Vice-President*, Chief Justice Waite.

*Treasurer*, Morris K. Jesup.

*Secretary*, D. C. Gilman.

*Executive Committee*, Messrs. Hayes, Colquitt, Dodge, Boyce, and Gilman.

*Finance Committee*, Messrs. Stewart, Dodge, and Jesup.

It was resolved, that MR. JOHN F. SLATER be invited to attend all meetings of the Board.

The Trustees finally adjourned to meet in New York, October 5, 1882.

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After the Board adjourned, Mr. JESUP gave a dinner party at his residence in honor of MR. SLATER. Besides the members of the Board, gentlemen from New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, were present, and in informal addresses expressed

their interest in the new foundation and their respect for the motives by which the founder was inspired. Among the persons present, not members of the Board, were Rev. Dr. DIX, Rev. Dr. STORRS, Rev. Dr. TAYLOR, Rev. Dr. L. W. BACON, Hon. E. D. MORGAN, Hon. CARL SCHURZ, Hon. JOHN WELSH, Hon. S. E. BALDWIN, Hon. T. HILLHOUSE, W. E. DODGE, Jr., Esq., and F. L. PATON, Esq.

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## SECOND MEETING.

The second meeting of the Trustees was held in New York, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, October fifth and seventh, 1882. All the members, except Mr. BROOKS, were in attendance. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. BOYCE.

The Finance Committee reported the investments which had been made of a portion of the money received from Mr. SLATER, and their action was concurred in by the Board.

Consideration was given to the selection of an Agent, and the Executive Committee were unanimously authorized to tender the appointment to Rev. A. G. HAYGOOD, D.D., President of Emory College, Georgia.\*

The following resolutions, after careful consideration, were adopted :

*Resolved*, That the General Agent be requested to consider and report to the Board through the Executive Committee a plan of operations, and that his attention be particularly called to the following suggestions:—

1. That the income of the fund shall be directed to the encouragement and assistance of promising youth—a certain number of whom shall be annually chosen by the authorities of well-managed institutions approved by this Board of Trustees.

2. That the scholarships thus given shall be of such an amount as will help the deserving but will not be adequate

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\* Dr. HAYGOOD subsequently accepted the office.

to their entire support—so that the spirit of self-dependence under encouraging circumstances may be constantly cherished.

3. That in each institution aided by this fund, a careful register shall be kept of the scholars thus aided and of the careers which they follow after leaving the institution; and a semi-annual communication shall be required from each such scholar in order that the experience which is thus collected in the course of a few years may be of service in the future management of the trust.

4. That so far as practicable the scholars receiving the benefit of this foundation shall be trained in some manual occupation, simultaneously with their mental and moral instruction.

5. That the recipients of the SLATER aid shall be encouraged, when they are able, to return in whole or in part to the institution through which they are assisted the amount received from the fund in order that it may be again devoted to the encouragement of others.

6. That special provision be made for the exceptional encouragement of youth who are judged by the General Agent or by the Board to be worthy of such special assistance.

7. That inquiry be made as to whether this fund can be made available for the encouragement of schools where no adequate provision is now made for the instruction of colored youth.

The Board adjourned to meet at the call of its President, in February, and at Atlanta, Georgia, if it should seem best at a later day, to bring the Trustees together then and there.

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## In Answer to Inquiries.

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IN reply to numerous letters the following statements are made for the information of all who are interested in the objects of the John F. Slater Fund.

1. The plans of the Board will not be formed until the spring of 1883, as no income is yet available for distribution.

2. The General Agent, Dr. Haygood, in connection with the Executive Committee, will be engaged during the winter of 1882-3 in the study of the problem committed to the Trustees. Some of the points to be considered are mentioned on pages 19 and 20 of this pamphlet.

3. The donor of the Fund has indicated as "lines of operation adapted to the present condition of things, *the training of teachers* from among the people requiring to be taught, if, in the opinion of the corporation, by such limited selection the purposes of the trust can be best accomplished; and *the encouragement of such institutions as are most effectually useful in promoting this training of teachers.*"

4. He has also expressed a wish that neither principal nor income be expended in land or buildings, for any other purpose than that of safe and productive investment for income.



